

OHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

Vol. XXXIX No. 3

Fremont, California

February 12, 2009

Black History Month kicks off in style

By SEAN NERO
Staff writer

Roughly 100 people gathered to celebrate Black History Month with music, speeches, dancing and food Wednesday, when the cafeteria became the location for Ohlone College's first Black History Awareness Month celebration in more than ten years.

The event was scheduled to be held in the Quad, but rain forced the celebration indoors. The event was a joint collaboration between the ASOC and a committee of coordinators and counselors. Wednesday afternoon's kickoff event is the beginning of a month of planned events to take place on both the Fremont and Newark campuses.

Opening the ceremony was President Gari Browning, who expressed the historical relevance of having the event in a time that Ohlone has both its first woman president and its first African-American Board Member (Teresa Cox).

Student Teran Finley performed "Phenomenal Woman" by famed author and poet Maya Angelou, which the crowd had a strong reaction to. Following Finley's performance was special guest speaker Brandon Hughes, who gave a stirring rendition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Hughes, an actor and writer from Oakland, performed what he believed Dr. King would say if he were alive today. Student Kimberley Bobo performed a very emotional praise dance.

Chicano Studies Professor Ralph DeUnamuno encouraged students of varying cultures and backgrounds to participate in the symbolic lighting of the unity candle to personify the school's motto of "A World of Cultures United in Learning," as well as show the diversity present among the student body.

Political Science Professor Matt Freeman unveiled the items to be auctioned in a silent auction on Thursday, Feb. 26. The proceeds of the auction will help fund the "Yes I Can" Scholarship targeting African American students at Ohlone.

As the celebration began to wind down, all in attendance were asked to form a circle and hold hands in a final act of unity as Student and Assistant Property Manager Jamie Vallo gracefully began to sing the "Negro National Anthem" "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Closing out the festivities was a performance by Lions Den Entertainment, which featured dancing and drumming influenced by West African culture.

"I didn't expect the outcome to be so great," said Director of Campus Activities Debbie Trigg. "It exceeded

Continued on Page 3

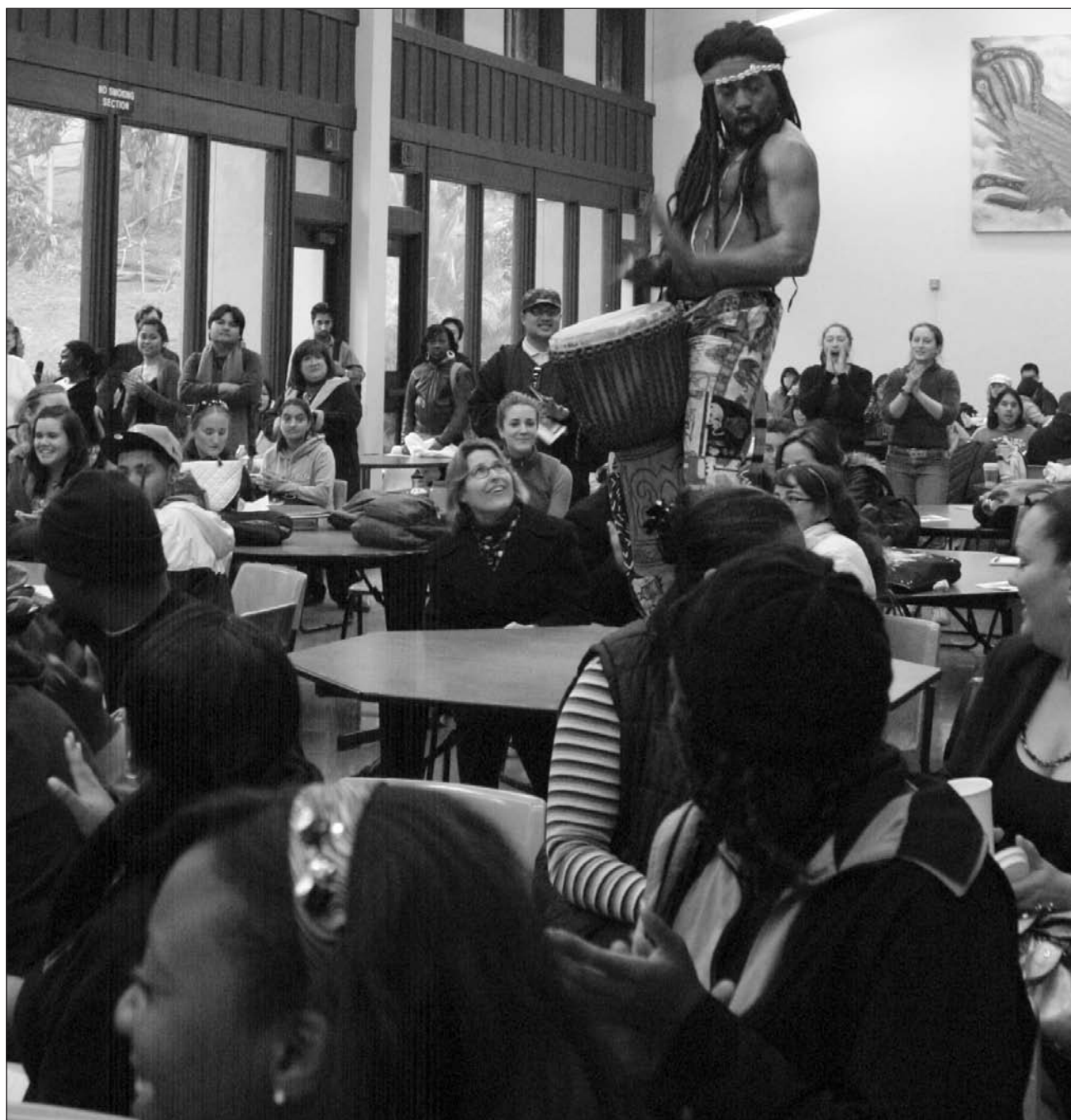


Photo by Anna Alfara

Tyehimba Kokayi plays a djembe drum in the cafeteria Wednesday as part of the first day of Ohlone's Black History Month events.

Summer sections will be cut Psychology author aims to promote skepticism

By NAZIA MASTAN
Staff writer

President Gari Browning outlined a more detailed budget plan calling for deep cuts to summer classes and K-9 enrollment in a budget update last week, in response to the state's critical cash shortfall.

The college is looking to reduce summer class offerings by 18 percent, said Browning, from a 1,100 to 900 full-time student capacity. These cuts come at a time of spiking student enrollment, up about 15 percent over last spring. Unfortunately, the college is scheduled to be reimbursed by the state for only a 1.21 percent increase over last year, leaving a substantial funding gap. The reduction in summer courses is aimed at narrowing that gap and still avoiding cuts next fall and spring, semesters in which

students often have less flexibility than summer.

Though the summer cuts will be wide and deep, there is a strategic plan involved, explained Browning. The classes that are in high demand will not be tampered with, but the classes with little student interest or enrollment will be dropped from the schedule.

These classes may be replaced with classes that do have a higher demand and enrollment, or may be dropped altogether, depending on how beneficial either would be to the college community.

Browning explained the cuts in K-9 enrollment were a matter of simple math: there is simply not enough money being received in our apportionment payments, or state funds given to the college based on the number of students we serve.

"Primary students"—those enrolled as college students—represent the bulk of the state funding Ohlone receives, to the tune of about \$4,000 per full-time student. In contrast, high school students taking classes at Ohlone pay no tuition and mean little money for the college.

Currently, K-9 students are allowed to enroll in any class with spaces available they choose, although they must register significantly later than primary students. The plan would mean that most K-9 enrollment would be eliminated in the form of a sharply reduced course offering available to those students.

The college's "Dual Enrollment" program, in which high school students have the option of taking Ohlone classes at their schools, will also be reduced in size.

By ANKITA CHHABRA
Staff writer

He's an author of numerous books, a regular contributor to the fields of psychology, religion and economics, as well as a great skeptic who does not judge, but rather question the reason why people believe in weird things. His name is Michael Shermer, and the Psychology Club will be bringing him to the Smith Center on Friday, March 6.

Shermer, a Ph.D., teaches economics at Claremont University. He is also the founder and publisher of the Skeptic Magazine, a monthly columnist for Scientific American and an acclaimed author of many books. Based on his best-selling



Photo courtesy of Michael Shermer

Michael Shermer

book, *Why People Believe in Weird Things*, Shermer applies scientific reason to questions such as whether ESP is real, what causes mass

Continued on Page 3



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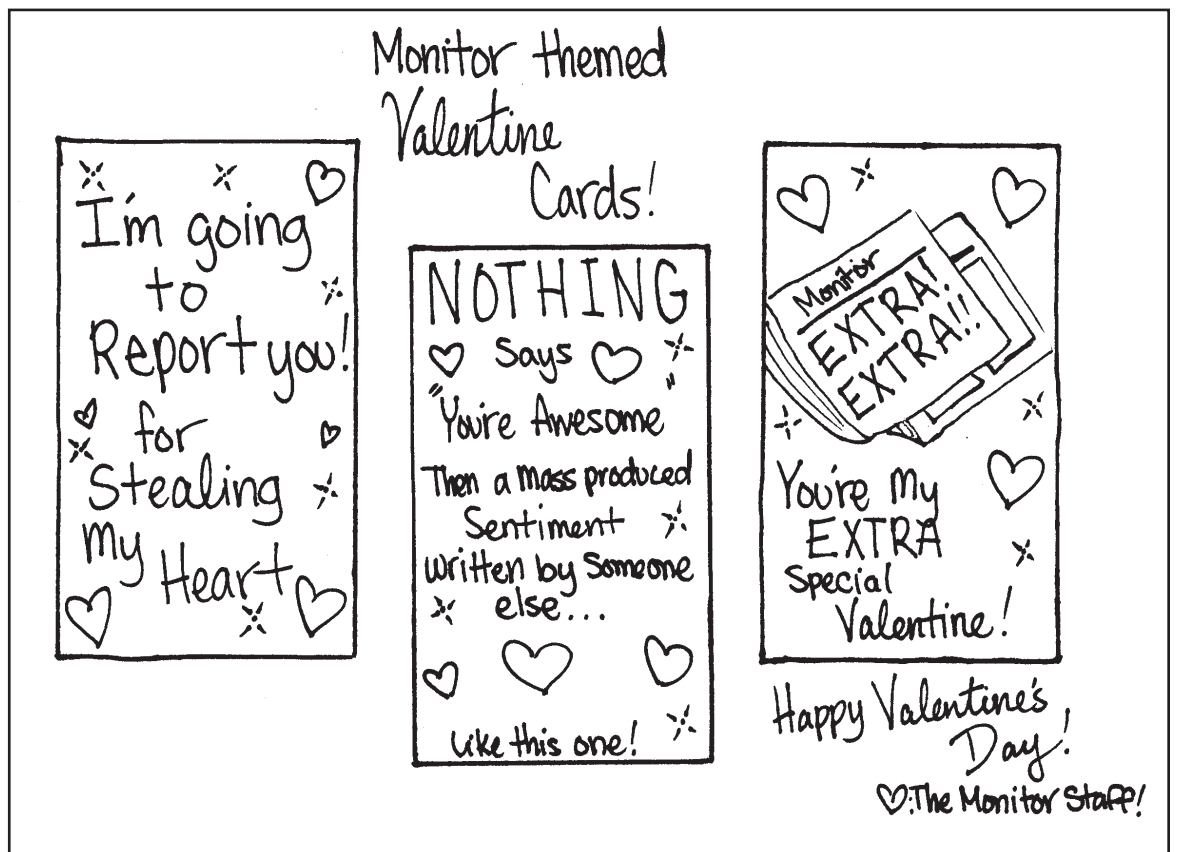


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The *MONITOR* is funded by the district, by the Associated Students of Ohlone College, and through advertising revenue.

The *MONITOR* is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, Journalism Association of Community Colleges, Community College Journalism Association, California Newspaper Publishers Association, College Media Advisers and Society of Newspaper Design.



OPINION

Accessible restrooms must be college priority

By **INEZ BLACK**
Staff writer

I remember a time when the color of one's skin determined if a person could use a public bathroom. With today's political correctness, restroom discrimination can fall below the radar.

Discrimination for access to this essential function exists for a group of Ohlone students, though the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides universal bathroom access.

Imagine if when you needed to use the bathroom, it was extremely difficult or impossible to do by

yourself? This is the reality for female students with disabilities at Ohlone. I have found no ADA accessible restrooms for females on the entire campus.

One professor commented that she found a female student in a wheelchair inside the bathroom at Hyman Hall, waiting for someone to come in so she could ask them to open the door for her and let her out.

As there is a male staff member using a wheelchair at Ohlone, there are two restrooms with push-buttons out of the nine public ones – one in Building 4 and another in Building 1.

Of the nine women's bathrooms, none have automatic doors. Though there were no female faculty members requiring accessible bathrooms when the doors for Buildings 1 and 4 were installed, they should have been added for the women's restrooms.

This problem affects more than students using wheelchairs or crutches. People with neck, back, and arm injuries, or with disabilities affecting strength or balance, find it difficult to open the over-sized, solid doors at Ohlone which, even with good hinges, are extremely heavy.

And if you are able to open the

doors to get in, it shuts on you if you are slow going through. Wheelchair user Nathan Torres, who is studying medicine, said, "there should be retractable springs on the bathroom doors, which would slowly close the door, and allow enough time to get through in a wheelchair."

Accessing the toilet stalls isn't any easier. Ben, an accounting major who uses a wheelchair, stated, "Restrooms in [many] buildings... cause problems for wheelchair users... Most people can use them, but on Building 1's second floor, if you are completely wheelchair bound and need your chair to enter the stall, it is not usable."

Director of Facilities Lucky Lofton indicated proposals were submitted to the state addressing these problems, and it is a definite concern of the college. To install the automatic door for one women's restroom is \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Money is tight and upgrading these doors to ADA standards would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. But a few corporations had a great year, and maybe they can be approached by Ohlone's grant writers. From experience, I know this is a viable option for the college to consider. Please start with a couple accessible bathrooms for women at Hyman Hall and on the Quad.

Learning to play it safe is no joke, seriously

By **ANKITA CHHABRA**
Staff writer

So...let's talk about sex.

That's all it is, just three simple letters put together that make up one of the most dreaded topics that people still avoid talking about. I had a friend back in high school who was a devoted Christian, and her motto for all the so-called "sinners" was that, "You either live by the words of God or you die by the diseases which are a punishment." Pretty cruel words, don't you think?

I thought so too, until I realized how many uneducated teenagers are out there that have not been made aware of the risks involved with not practicing safe sex. The fact that a girl can end up with an unexpected life form in nine months is just one of the many results.

First off, I want to say I understand the religious viewpoints on this issue. The idea is that sex is a "grown-ups" thing, and us "kids" should just wait to get married and then learn about the birds and bees. Okay, I see their valid point there; I mean who wants their little 12-year-old talking about how mommy and daddy put them to bed early because

they wanted to have sex?

Let's grow up people! If not today, then tomorrow, because the sooner teens learn about safe sex the better. I'm not just advocating sex education because I think those extreme religious folks are insane for not wanting their kids to know about sex, but because it's fun and healthy.

Sex education is really important, like no joke.

I know for a fact that if I were a parent, I would want my child fully aware and educated about all those "icky-goopy" things about sex – and the nice things too. Yes, sex can be nice, in case you didn't

know. For example, a day's worth of coitus burns up to 3,570 calories and having sex for just half an hour can burn up to 85 calories. And it relieves stress!

I feel like a lot of people choose to avoid the topic of sex because they are uncomfortable with the fact that they might actually have to disclose something personal. But everything we talk about these days is personal. Take, for, instance family matters, emotions about daily decisions or even private health issues. So if you can talk about all that, then who is to say sex can't be talked about the same way. Yes, the vocabulary might be a bit more racy, but that is

simply the nature of the topic.

Why shy away from one of the best things on this planet, and one of the most-thought-about things in our heads? We are all mature people here, so it should not be such a taboo to bring up sex and to encourage others to learn about it. Religious or not, everyone should be educated about safe sex rather than go out into the world not knowing.

Embrace those feared questions and concerns, and go get some words of advice or help if you need some, and even recommend a friend to learn about safe sex. Being safe and educated will only help you, not take you to hell.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What was your best Valentine's Day?



Jovi Tambaoan
POLITICAL SCIENCE

"Any Valentine's Day is good because it's also my birthday."



Prisma Walia
BUSINESS

"My boyfriend in the Navy paid me a surprise visit with roses."



Wynn Aung
BIO-ENGINEERING

"Hanging out with my boyfriend back in my home country."



Stephanie Cobarrubia
POLITICAL SCIENCE

"I was ambushed when I woke up."



Chris Clifton
ENGLISH

"I went to a home for the elderly and played bingo."

College makes plans for planning summit

By SEAN NERO
Staff writer

Classes will be canceled Thursday, March 12 for a college-wide planning summit, the College Council announced at its meeting Monday.

The summit, which will feature faculty members, staff members and a number of student leaders, is currently scheduled to occur in the gymnasium from 1 to 4 p.m. President Gari Browning, along with members of the College Council, will hold the meeting to

discuss and make necessary changes to the college's goals, objectives and mission statement so that the college can return to good standing with the Accrediting Committee for Junior and Community Colleges, who issued a 50-page report reprimanding the behavior of the College Board of Trustees last July following a visit to Ohlone.

The reprimand focused on the micro-managing and infighting that characterized many Board meetings. "Board members who do not vote with the majority have an ethical

obligation to not undermine the decisions of the majority," the report stated.

The report placed the college on "warning" status, requiring it to submit two reports detailing the steps it has taken to mend those shortcomings—one due by Oct. 15, 2008 and another by March 1 of this year—to avoid losing its accreditation.

Browning reported that the accreditation committee has accepted the college's first report.

Browning also released a list detailing

the accreditation status of other institutes to illustrate that Ohlone is in fairly good shape. Browning was very optimistic of Ohlone's success, stating, "I believe we are in a very good situation," referring to the college getting closer to meeting the goals set by the committee. However, Browning said that the college would retain its warning status until the next meeting in June.

Accreditation allows credits earned at a community college to be used toward classes at UC's and state colleges.

Over objections, Board approves electronic sign

By ZUHAL BAHADURI
Staff writer

The College Board of Trustees voted to finalize the installation of an electronic event sign in front of the Newark campus at their meeting Wednesday.

The Board had initially voted the proposition through last month, but Board Vice Chairman John Weed chose to bring the topic up for discussion again because of concerns

about the distracting nature of the sign. The podium sign, similar to the electronic signs on the Fremont Campus at Pine and Anza streets, would be erected near the traffic signal in front of the Newark campus.

Vice President of Administrative Services Mike Calegari said that as the signage is merely for student, faculty and staff and constituents of the college to know what events are coming up and be aware of

campus activities and advertisement for outsiders on the college campus, it should be allowed. Weed, nonetheless, suggested that another location be found for the electronic marquee signage, at a more functional location.

The Board voted to install the sign 7-2, with Trustee Bill McMillin and Weed dissenting.

Dean of the Health Sciences and Environmental Studies Division Gale Carli announced to the Board

that the Chancellor's office recently approved several environmental studies classes. The classes will now transfer to Cal State East Bay, whereas they formerly did not.

Carli also pointed out that while the nursing program has a very high number of full-time instructors teaching classes (38 percent are taught by full-time instructors), the environmental studies courses are taught predominantly by adjunct faculty (only 4 percent are full-

time). Still, Carli said that percentage should soon increase.

Carli stated that the retention and success rates in the environmental studies courses are excellent, which she attributed to exceptional faculty and well-developed curriculum. In addition, said Carli, Ohlone is currently collaborating with East Bay and East Bay Green Academy companies, to try to work together to support the development of green technology.

Psych author to lecture on evolution, people

Continued from Page 1

delusions, and why people are so gullible, all in a witty talk that has been described as a no-holds-barred attack on the pseudoscience of today.

One of Shermer's key areas of focus has been on evolution. According to Psychology Professor Sheldon Helms, he sees himself as a protector of science and evolution. He writes against such things as the teaching of "intelligent design," also known as creationism, which he claims is unconstitutional. He takes on a scientific approach when analyzing bizarre beliefs, and asks himself why people believe in these things. He asks, how can people require such little evidence before

believing?

Besides his extensive contributions to the social science world, Shermer also studies the psychology of the stock market: how people invest, and their greed for money. His most recent book, *The Mind of the Market: Compassionate Apes, Competitive Humans, and Other Tales from Evolutionary Economics*, provides an in-depth look at the world of evolutionary economics. His books are available at the bookstore right now, and he will hold a book signing after the talk.

His appearance is being sponsored by the Psychology Club, as well as the ASOC.

Tickets for the talk may be purchased at the Box Office at the Smith Center for \$10.



Photo courtesy of Michael Shermer

Economist and Skeptic magazine author Michael Shermer will speak at Ohlone on March 6.



Photo by Jorge Gomez

Brandon Hughes does his rendition of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s 'I Have a Dream' speech.

Black history

Continued from Page 1

my expectations 300 percent." Trigg said that the event was the product of three weeks of planning and that she was "very proud of Ohlone" for its support. Trigg said that Browning is set to announce a proclamation of the event Wednesday night.

Trigg, along with second year counselor Yvonka Headley, said that the event will become an annual

occurrence at the college.

Headley said that the goals of the event were to "increase awareness of African American successes and to celebrate the heritage of African Americans with others while promoting racial harmony and understanding." Headley also acknowledged the entire committee for their help and support in putting on the event.

Serve yourself, sit down, and relax while enjoying a healthy treat.

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Stone cold
thinker

By NOAH
LEVIN
Opinion editor

Veins of the beast

The night was cool, dry and clear. My car hummed along Highway 237 east toward Highway 880, Del the Funky Homosapien thumping over the stereo. I was in the right state of mind to take in all around me, and as I slowed in preparation for the upcoming traffic jam, things got suddenly very real.

There, laid out before me like two sludgy rivers of light, was the junction of 237 with 880. The northbound side of the freeway glowed a deep red, with occasional orange lights flashing amongst the multitude of cars, and on the southbound side was the mirror image all in white and yellow.

I took my place in the line of steady traffic, and was struck by the enormity of such a thing. To view the Bay Area objectively, you could say compare the many cities and burbs of the San Francisco metropolitan area to a living organism, and the many highways and roads the veins for the great beast. The cars and trucks are then likened to be blood cells, and if the highways should become obstructed by accident or disaster, then they can be likened to artery blockage in a heart. The daily, horrific visage of rush-hour traffic on 880 is comparable to high cholesterol in a middle-aged man's arteries. These arterial highways and roads feed people, the essential element to making our cities function into the massive urban centers and factories, which are the organs of Mighty Beast. Daily, the Beast's veins pump people all around, from suburb to city, the mass of cars thumping and pushing. They amass in unknowable numbers, the roads at rush hour gleaming and pulsing the beat of a heart pumping blood and oxygen through the body.

And to make a rather bleak turn, when you get a paper cut, you lose a negligible amount of blood. Similarly, if there is an accident, and one or more drivers is killed or taken off the road, the Beast makes little pause for the occasional and unavoidable loss of life. Large metro areas like the Bay Area stop for almost nothing, much like when you suffer that small cut.

But unlike most creatures, the Beast never, ever sleeps. Even in the dead of night, the Beast must keep contact with the other monster metropolitan areas around the world. Hong Kong. New York. Paris. London. These mighty, breathing, ever-growing monsters are always in contact, and always transferring goods, people, and information. I see these mega-cities as not merely individual entities, but part of a community, of giant, hulking, feasting creatures that devour resources, people, and energy.

All hail the Mighty Beast, for we have no power to break, only to become a part of it.

Student film goes to silver screen

By DEVERY SHEFFER
Staff writer

A suspenseful and provocative film made by an Ohlone teacher and students is to be included in upcoming film festivals. The 22-minute film, called "One Way Ticket Please," is directed by Lawrence Iriarte, who teaches film and video production at Ohlone.

The crew consisted of five to eight of Iriarte's students in his class last semester.

The film follows its main character Maury Jackson, played by Ryan Renzi, in his quest to leave his mundane life behind in hopes of finding an unworldly paradise.

The film's eerie and spine-tingling ambiance feels similar to an old "Twilight Zone" episode or Alfred Hitchcock film. The film also costars Ohlone student Cyrus Soliman as the crafty travel agent whom Maury seeks out in his attempt to escape.

"One Way Ticket Please" is set to show in four film festivals including the Sacramento International Film Festival and Film Independent's Los Angeles Film Festival. After its premier showing at the festivals Iriarte hopes to show it on television.

Channels such as Sci-Fi fit the genre of the film well. The film, an adapted screenplay, written by Iriarte is based on the mystical utopia known as Shangri-La found in the 1933 novel *Lost Horizon*.

Iriarte originally wrote his own version of the story 20 years ago when he read it in junior high school. Since then it has been tweaked and adapted into the film it is today.

Iriarte said he made this film to give his students a learning experience. During last semester he told his students about his film and offered them the opportunity to be a part of creating it.

"I wanted to show them you can make things look high quality if you just know the technique," said Iriarte. Iriarte's goal is for his students to leave his class ready to go and work in the industry.

Several of his former students currently work at major networks



Photo courtesy of Lawrence Iriarte

Students examine stills from their film, 'One Way Ticket Please.'

such as ESPN and MTV.

The entire film was shot in the Fremont and Newark area. The Ohlone campus, Coyote Hills and Old Niles all provided settings for the film. Although these areas may be familiar, the dark mood makes them almost unrecognizable.

The film took two days to shoot and is still undergoing some final editing. When you're extremely limited with time to shoot, you can do nothing but hope that everything goes well, he said.

One problem that occurred the weekend of the shoot that was unavoidable. It began raining, leaving the crew with nothing to do but chase the sunshine. Overall, the rain did nothing but enhance the film.

The cameras didn't capture the rainfall but the unique lighting added to the build-up of the climax scene and intensified the dreary

feel of the film. Inspiration for the film was pulled from both his own experience and also from a well known director. Iriarte was invited to his first experience working on a film by a teacher when he was still in school.

His bus ride to a large warehouse in the middle of nowhere in San Francisco made him feel uneasy.

However, he was thrilled when he rang the buzzer and found himself on the set of the newest Disney movie, "James and the Giant Peach."

This leap of faith that must be taken when pursuing your dreams is a major theme in the movie.

Iriarte's other inspiration was taken from filmmaker Christopher Nolan and his usage of light and the ability to tell a story in his movie "Memento."

The film is currently 28 minutes

long but the final version will be 22 minutes long, the length of a typical 30-minute television episode.

It is also awaiting its original soundtrack from a guitarist who formerly played for the band Primus. Altogether the film cost just under \$300 out of Iriarte's pocket, which mostly paid for feeding the crew and some extra equipment.

Iriarte has been teaching at Ohlone for more than seven years. He started by teaching film editing and special effects classes.

Iriarte's experience in film and video led him to creating the Film and Video Production class that he now teaches.

He worked on some well-known movies such as "Matrix" and "Be-dazzled."

Iriarte's latest project is a show, "Barbs Kids" that will premier on a major cable network next spring.

Deaf students welcome Year of Ox

By ISAAC WEST
Staff writer

The deaf community on campus came together to welcome the Year of the Ox last Thursday.

Nan Zhou of the Deaf Studies Department presented information about his culture and experiences at the event, held in Room 5301. Zhou brought Chinese foods, desserts and mini meals to the celebration, and also encouraged attendees to learn about China's most important traditional holiday and help them identify their animal zodiac to see if it fit their characteristics.

Though Americans only celebrate the New Year one day a year, the Chinese New Year celebration lasts for 15 days. Chinese New Year starts with the new moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. Jan. 26 was the first day of the Chinese New Year and it ended Feb. 10.

The event, which is also called the Lunar New Year, is celebrated by

many nations, including mainland China, Taiwan, Macau, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand.

The Year of the Ox fell on 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997 and 2009. The 12-year span between the dates is indicative of the 12 animals that make up the Chinese zodiac: the pig, the rat, the ox, the tiger, the rabbit, the dragon, the snake, the horse, sheep, monkey, rooster and dog. This year is 4707 in the Chinese calendar.

"Every animal has its characters," said Zhou. "If you are Ox, you are reliable, patient, kind, determined, hardworking, preserving, authoritative, and skillful."

"What about the relationships for Oxen?" said Zhou. "People believe work comes first and romance comes second. They also have a long life [and a] faithful relationship. [The Ox is] a dependable, protective and kind partner. They are renowned for their stamina in relationships."



Photo by Isaac West

Nan Zhou shows a Lunar New Year powerpoint.

Zhou was also able to outline some trivia concerning the year of the Ox. Barack Obama was born

in 1961, making him an Ox. He's come full circle, being sworn in as president this year.



Photo by Anna Alfara

Paddy Moran stands before her painting 'The Sri Lankan.'

People: colorful in shades of blue

By **NAZIA MASTAN**
Staff writer

The Louie-Meager Art Gallery at Ohlone's Smith Center showed a collection of artwork from an array of fine arts educators as well as student artists and presented their pieces at the "People" show.

"People" is a short explanation of the subjects of the artistic works by talented educators and students from several universities as well as Ohlone that includes paintings, sculptures and photographs.

There was a large crowd that came to the reception on Feb. 7, which was the same Saturday night that the Fremont Symphony Winter Concert of Wagner and Brahms

was being held in the Smith Center. The events that occurred together allowed guests of the symphony as well as visitors of the gallery to mingle with the artists and also with one another to delve deeper in their understanding of the artistic works.

When entering the gallery one could see that there was a table of food, but that didn't seem to phase many guests of the gallery because they were focused on talking to the creators of the art.

When conversing with Paddy Moran, a painter of 30 plus years and a fine arts teacher at Ohlone, she explained her personal connection to her art. Moran presented two paintings that were her reflections

of the tsunami that hit the Indian Ocean in December 2004.

One painting was her representation of a man and his boats, entitled "The Sri Lankan."

The other was her portrayal of the destruction left by the massive wave of water, which was entitled "Tsunami."

Both of Moran's paintings were painted in vibrant colors which juxtaposed the ravaging force of the tsunami that hit Sri Lanka.

Moran explained that the bright colors can also represent the spirit of the people affected by the tsunami and their ability to lift themselves from the destruction and create a community again, putting emphasis on the "people" of a community.

Another artist educator from Santa Clara University, David Pace, presented two black and white photographs of a tailor, entitled "Konate Lassina Tailor."

A photo entitled "Ganou the Barber" was from a remote west African village by the name of Berbba in the country of Burkina Faso.

Pace's inspiration for his photography was his desire to represent the struggles that they faced in the remote regions without electricity, again with a focus on the "people" of the area.

This event was coordinated by Kenney Mencher, art professor at Ohlone and director/curator.

Mencher put on an excellent show of human talent.

Smoking trends drifting upward

By **ZUNERA SYED**
Staff writer

The college is seeing an increase in student smoking, said Health Center Head Sally Bratton, based on personal observations.

In the beginning of this semester, Bratton started noticing groups of students smoking near the old security building.

In most of her time at Ohlone, she hasn't seen a nominal number of smokers. What caused this increase of on-campus smoking? And what can we do to fix this problem? The

enrollment increase at Ohlone College certainly has an affect on the increase of smoking on campus. According to Ohlone rules, students aren't allowed to smoke near classrooms. However, they are allowed to smoke in the parking lots.

The main reasons that people start smoking include stress due to the loss of a job or financial trouble.

In order to fix the problem, the Health Center has enlisted people on campus to mention to students to not smoke if not in the designated area. Before this policy was enacted the

smoking rate was 13 percent. After enforcing the policy, the Health Center took another survey which showed the smoking rate decreasing to 7 percent, which is lower than the national average.

Bratton believes that the problem can be fixed by educating the students on what the smoking policies are. Another solution is to offer the students help to quit smoking. However it is possible people will start quitting on their own because of the rise of the tax on cigarettes.

The tax rose higher to 62 cents per pack. Fortunately, California has the

second lowest adult smoking rate in the nation. Adult smoking rates dropped from 22.7 percent to 13.3 percent in 2006. For men, smoking decreased from 25.6 percent to 17.5 percent in 2006.

Among women, smoking lessened from 19.9 percent in 1988 to 9.1 percent. Despite these achievements the cost of smoking in California is nearly \$16 billion annually or \$3,331 per smoker every year.

For more information on the latest facts and statistics on tobacco, you can visit www.tobaccofreeca.org/index.html.



Weighing Anchor

By **ERIC DORMAN**
Editor-in-chief

One if by land...

In the water, he's the greatest Olympian the world has ever known. On land, his judgment isn't that much better than Paris Hilton's. The facts are simple, so why can't we reconcile them?

You've all seen the photo—you know, the one of a certain 14-gold-medal swimmer inhaling a substance that was decidedly not chlorine. And yes, now that the apology is out and the three-month suspension is in and the public fervor has died down somewhat, the whole story seems like old news. But the plot of this little drama—the public's casting of an athlete or celebrity into a golden idol, only to be outraged upon discovering that the gold is not pure, but riddled with humanity—has been played out so many times that it suggests that topic is worth examining.

Whenever Phelps is caught inhaling, or new evidence turns up that suggests that maybe A-Rod had been sharing Barry Bonds' flaxseed oil, or Christian Bale succumbs to a turrets outbreak when someone walks in front of the camera during filming, something inside us balks at the news. In our minds, we want to remember Phelps as the man who made America proud with his incredible feats in the water. We want A-Rod to be the greatest player of our time, and nothing less. We want Bale to be the strong and quiet hero Gotham deserves, and we want him to act like the hero we deserve.

But they're not, and we're disappointed. We call them irresponsible for setting a bad example for the kids; we call them thoughtless for failing to take into account their status as role models. And they apologize, then do it all again.

The apologies are not the real issue, though, for the real blame lies with us. Who decided that people with immense talents in some areas—athletes, actors and entertainers—but just as flawed as the rest of us elsewhere, were supposed to function as the role models in our society? How do we justify modeling every aspect of our life around the life of someone who's only really accomplished at one thing?

Sure, Phelps can swim faster than some of us can run and Bale cuts an amazing Batman, but does that mean we should shape the entirety of our lives with the mold of these figures? These men have much to teach us in the world of swimming and acting, certainly, but unless we want to continue to be disappointed every time one of these individuals reveals their flaws, we must segregate the immortal achievements from the mortal humans.

Put another way: give to sports what is sports', and understand that giving any more is giving too much.



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- 2/24 - UC Berkeley Rep Visit
- 2/24 - LifeWest Chiropractic College Rep Visit
- 2/26 - CSU East Bay Rep Visit



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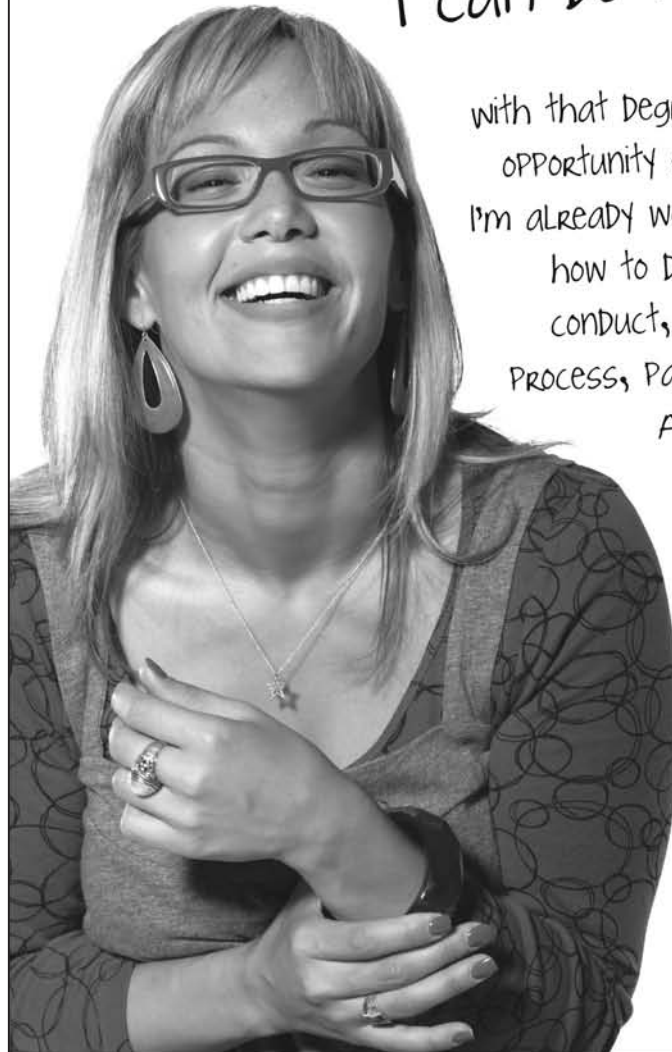
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There's no place like home

■ Women's basketball complete perfect home record with 100-36 win

By ISAAC WEST
Staff writer

The Lady Renegades have played very well at home this season, well enough to stay undefeated at home after their whopping 100-36 blowout of the Mission College Saints.

The Lady Renegades played near perfect in the home finale Wednesday that also honored their six departing sophomores.

Mission opened the scoring early, but Ohlone fought back to take a 7-6 lead.

Sophomore Louise Valdez took charge in the first half, nailing several shots as the Lady Renegades dominated offensively taking a 49-17 halftime lead.

"We were in the zone for most of the game," said Elizabeth Stanley, who is wrapping up her eighth season as Ohlone women's head basketball coach.

As Ohlone ended the first half with the lead, their strong play continued going into the second half as they started with an 11-0 run.

Sophomore Lelo Ramasotoga saved her best game for her last, scoring 11 points on the night as the crowd cheered her every basket.

"It was our last time on our home court," Ramasotoga said. "We just had to go out there and enjoy it."

Enjoy it the Lady Renegades



Photo by Tara Lynn Lanning

Sophomore Lelo Ramasotoga, above, scored 11 points in her home finale; Ohlone's six sophomores, below, were honored on Wednesday.

did on the night as they looked the sharpest they have all season.

"When we started playing defense, we got better," Ramasotoga added.

"I felt pretty good about tonight. I just hope that we can get better despite the competition," Stanley added as her team finishes the 2008-'09 season with a perfect home record.

"You want to utilize the home court as much as you can."



Making a splash

By ANKITA CHHABRA
Sports writer

With a deep team ready to hit the water, the 2009 Ohlone Swim team is led by Head Coach Gene Kendall, and assisting him is Don French.

There are 20 men swimmers, with three returning and 8 women swimmers with one returning.

According to Kendall, the men's squad is looking to be a competitive one that should go to the conference championships with the women aiming to place in the middle of the league.

Their divers are ready to go this season, too.

Thomas Obyle, Nick Depratti, Kelly Idle and Lucy Bergey are looking good and ready to go.

"This is a much more dedicated group of individuals, who have goals and are willing to reach them," said Kendall.

He hopes that his men's team will qualify in the relays in state championship and his women can qualify for the state meet down in Long Beach.

With great teams come great athletes, and one to be watching out for is sophomore Joana Wlyk, who is ready for the 2009 season.

The swimming and diving teams are well under way in their season and host their first meet against West Valley College Friday at 2 p.m.

Read the Monitor Online at <http://ohlone.edu/org/monitor>

The Monitor invites your comments. Letters should be 250 words or less and include your name and relationship to Ohlone. Letters become property of The Monitor and may be edited for spelling and length. Campus Events listings are free for college-related events. To have your event added or to place an ad, contact Jacque Orvis at (510) 659-6075 or e-mail monitorads@ohlone.edu

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February

15 Women's Softball - Stars and Stripes Tournament in Visalia

17 Meeting - TechComm Meeting in Room 1407 on Fremont campus at 2 p.m.

17 Women's Softball - Home vs. San Mateo College at 3 p.m.

18 Meeting - Faculty

Senate meeting in Room 1307 on the Fremont campus sat 3:30 p.m.

18 Women's Basketball - Away vs. Monterey Peninsula College at 5:30 p.m.

18 Men's Basketball - Home vs. Cañada College at 7 p.m.

19 Women's Softball - Away vs. Foothill College at 3 p.m.

20 Academics - Last day to petition to complete a class on a credit or no-credit basis.

20 Meeting - Professional Development Committee Meeting in Room 1407 on Fremont campus at 12:30 p.m.

20 Men's Baseball - Home vs. DeAnza College at 2 p.m.

20 Women's Basketball - Away vs. San Jose City College at 7 p.m.

20 Performance - Smith Center Presents Voices of London in the Jackson Theater at 8 p.m.

21-22 Women's Softball - Stormfest Tournament in Napa

21 Men's Baseball - Away vs. DeAnza College at 11 a.m.

21 Men's Baseball - Away vs. DeAnza College at 2 p.m.

21 Men's Basketball - Away vs. San Jose City

College 3 p.m.

23 Meeting - Facilities Committee meeting in Room 6104 at 12:30 p.m.

23 Meeting - College Council meeting at Fremont Campus in Room 1407 and Newark Campus in Room NC-1219 from 3 until 4:30 p.m.

24 Women's Softball - Away vs. City College of San Francisco at 2 p.m.

24 Men's Baseball - Home vs. Sacramento City College at 2 p.m.

25 Women's Basketball - Nor Cal Play-In Game. Location TBA

25 Meeting - Board of Trustees workshop at the

Newark Center at 6:30 p.m.

26 Men's Baseball - Away vs. Gavilan College at 2 p.m.

26 Women's Softball - Home vs. Mission College at 3 p.m.

27 Art - New art gallery exhibit Design Show in the Louie-Meager Art Gallery. The exhibit runs from Feb. 27 until April 4.

27-28 Women's Basketball - Regional semifinal playoffs. Location TBA

28 Women's Softball - Home vs. Solano College at 10 a.m.

28 Men's Baseball - Home vs. Hartnell College at noon.

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Resilient Renegades' comeback falls short

■ Ohlone bats remain hot despite Tuesday's 12-8 loss at DVC

By **JEFF WEISINGER**
Sports editor

During the Renegade's five-game win streak, Ohlone outscored their opponents 47-20, scoring at least seven runs in four of the five wins.

Although Tuesday's 12-8 loss to the Diablo Valley Vikings snapped the streak, Ohlone still proved that they can score at will.

Diablo Valley Vikings pitcher David Hurlbut (2-0) shut out the Renegades for 5 1/3 innings as Ohlone was unable to figure out the 6'4" freshman right-hander.

"They got a way better quality start from their pitcher who threw well," said Renegades Head Coach Jordon Twohig. "He threw his pitches for strikes and located really well on the outside corners of the plate."

However, that all changed in the top of the fifth when Renegades center fielder Cody Foster hit a double off Hurlbut to start the inning, then catcher Braxton Miller sent in Foster from second with his RBI base hit, as the Renegades began to claw back from a 12-run deficit.

Designated hitter Jeff Johnson's two-run home run in the fifth in-



Catcher Braxton Miller, above, sparked the Renegade's rally with his RBI single in the sixth. Below, right-hander Jon Fragulia pitched a very solid 2 2/3 innings as Ohlone's pitching struggled against the Vikes.

ning sparked new life to Ohlone, who cut the lead to 12-3 after the fifth inning.

"We took more of a line-drive approach in the sixth and seventh and it paid off," said Twohig. "My guys got a lot of fight in them and I commend them for that," he added.

The Renegades tacked on three more runs in the seventh inning by Foster, Zach Johnson and Brad Reeves, who had an RBI each in the inning to cut the Vikings lead down to 12-6 after seven.

Aaron Plimmer's two-run shot to center-right in the ninth would inch the Renegades closer, down 12-8, but Vikings pitcher Casey Goonan struck out JoJo Hernandez to end the game.

The Renegades' very solid pitching staff took a slight step back Tuesday, however freshman right hander Jon Fragulia looked very sharp as he came in the fifth with one out, down 12-0 and pitched a solid 2 2/3 innings, allowing one run on three hits. Ian Hoff entered the ninth and allowed one hit.

Photos by Tara Lynn Lanning



No worries after losing doubleheader

By **TOMÁS ORTEGA**
Sports writer

"We haven't been doing the little things to win games."

You hear a statement like that from a 700-win coach who has her team sitting on a 4-2 record to begin the 2009 campaign and wonder 'Coach, how on Earth do you see your team not doing the little things right? You must be doing something right, especially since the two losses were by one run each.'

But then you realize that Head Softball Coach Donna Runyon has been here for quite some time and has managed to compete year in and year out to accumulate the astounding number of wins.

So if you have an issue with her thoughts, relax and take her word for it.

The Renegades had a double header on Sunday against Fresno City College and San Joaquin Delta College. The games didn't exactly fall in the Renegades' favor, losing to FCC 5-4 and Delta 2-1.

Kelly Colker was on the mound against FCC and was shelled. She finished all seven innings, but not before allowing five runs on ten hits.

The bulk of the damage against Ohlone's ace came in the third and fourth when Fresno brought four runs across the plate. Another run in the fifth gave Fresno a 5-1 lead.

Ohlone rallied late with one run in the sixth and two more in the

seventh, but couldn't get the extra push to even the score.

Kendall Beermann threw all seven innings against Delta College and had a little better luck than her sophomore teammate.

Beerman allowed two runs in the sixth that turned out to be the difference in the game.

Baserunning mistakes and unproductive at-bats did the Renegades in. The Lady Renegades inability to produce a "team at-bat" as Coach Runyon said was a sore issue the team dealt with. Non-team at-bats included getting deep into counts by taking pitches as opposed to the instilled Renegade modus operandi of fouling pitches off and tiring the opposing pitcher.

"We did it well against Sierra,

but not on Sunday," Runyon said. "You have to look forward to it, to playing good teams, to playing against a contender. We'll see how they respond to back-to-back one run losses."

The Lady Renegades squad has played all six of their games at home so far.

But they will be tested on the road the next four days which includes a game against Modesto today and four games over the weekend in Visalia.

The Visalia games are part of a tournament held by College of the Sequoias, who the Renegades will play against on Sunday. Butte College, Cosumnes River and Cypress are the other three squads awaiting them.

Renegades win key game at Foothill

By **ANKITA CHHABRA**
Sports writer

One can most certainly say that the Ohlone Men's Basketball Team's defense is something to watch out for.

Game after game have they improved, and are on top of the conference because of it.

After getting the much-needed win against Las Positas 71-58 on Saturday night, the Renegades looked to give themselves some cushion on top as they traveled to Los Altos to take on the Foothill

Owls Wednesday night.

The Renegades beat Foothill earlier in the season 74-67 at Ohlone, and did the same again Wednesday night as they beat the Owls 74-61.

The Renegades improved their record to 21-8 on the season, 8-2 in conference play, tying the CCSF Rams for first place in the conference. The win is also Ohlone's fourth in their last five games.

"This was a big game for us and we knew Foothill was looking to win, but now we're just looking forward to seeding in the conference,"

said Head Coach John Peterson.

The Owls did a good job keeping Ohlone on their toes as Ohlone fell into foul trouble again.

But that did not stop the Renegades from putting up some clutch shots to widen up the gap in the second half and keep the lead to themselves until the end.

"Every game is as important as the last one, and now we just need to play as we did tonight for the remainder of the season," said center Alpha N'Diaye.

Peterson also claimed this game to be one of the best the team has

played this season as they improved in their free throw percentage, rebounding and offensive play.

With the big rivalry game coming up this Friday against Chabot College, the boys are ready to get that win back for themselves and head on to playoffs.

The Renegades lost a thriller against the Gladiators on Jan. 21, as Chabot came to Ohlone and beat the Renegades 71-65 as Ohlone's comeback effort fell short.

They'll host Cañada College Wednesday in their home finale at Epler Gymnasium.



Fighting forward

Ashley Valenzuela has been playing basketball ever since she was 8 years old.

Learning the game under current Ohlone Women's Basketball Head Coach Elizabeth Stanley in the Fremont youth league, Valenzuela was on her way toward the top.

However, her basketball career almost ended before it took off.

A week before her ninth birthday, Valenzuela underwent surgery after being diagnosed with papillary thyroid cancer; a curable type of cancer, commonly found in people in their 30's and 40's, that starts in one lobe of the thyroid and usually grows slowly, spreading to the lymph nodes in the neck. It's 99.9 percent curable and doesn't require any treatment, according to WebMD.

"When they opened me up, they realized that the cancer was aggressive and it turned into a 10, 11 hour procedure," Valenzuela said.

The doctors discovered that the cancer wrapped around her vocal cord and was on the way towards her esophagus. They removed the thyroid and paralyzed her left vocal cord as they cut the cancer surrounding it.

The doctors succeeded in removing the cancer, but one more problem would return.

"As I grew up, I kept on going, but the paralyzed vocal cord moved over and blocked my airway," Valenzuela added.

In her senior year at James Logan, Valenzuela began to experience trouble breathing.

After going through a few medical tests, it was discovered that the paralyzed left vocal chord had moved over and began to block her airway.

She went through another operation, missing her senior season at Logan.

"Missing your senior year sucks. It's what your work for."

Despite sitting out her senior year at Logan, Valenzuela still received much support from her Colts teammates, as she does from her Ohlone teammates as well.

"I love my team. We're like family. I know that if anything happens they'll drop whatever and come and get me."

Her connection with Stanley was what brought the freshman guard to Ohlone.

"Coach Stanley knows my situation fully. At first I wasn't going to come back and play, I was going to take a year off and work. But she convinced me that if I come, she'll get me back to where I used to be."

Despite not getting much playing time this season, Valenzuela is looking forward to getting back on the court in 2009.